

GRANTING MILITARY RANK TO CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE NAVY NURSE CORPS

DECEMBER 17 (legislative day, DECEMBER 15), 1943.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. WALSH of Massachusetts, from the Committee on Naval Affairs,
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 2976]

The Committee on Naval Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 2976) to grant military rank to certain members of the Navy Nurse Corps, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

The purpose of the bill is to provide that during the war and for 6 months thereafter, or until such earlier time as the Congress by concurrent resolution or the President by proclamation may designate, the superintendent and all other members of the Navy Nurse Corps entitled under existing laws to relative rank, shall have and shall be designated by the rank which corresponds to the relative rank heretofore provided by law for such superintendent and members.

Section 2 provides that the proposed legislation shall not alter, enlarge, or modify the provisions of law relating to the authority of such members of the Navy Nurse Corps, or to the manner of their appointment.

The act of July 3, 1942 (56 Stat. 646; 34 U. S. C. 262, 263), prescribes relative rank for the superintendent, assistant superintendents, chief nurses, and nurses of the Navy Nurse Corps, and provides that they shall have authority in and about naval hospitals and other medical activities as regards medical and sanitary matters and all other work within the line of their duties, next after commissioned officers of the Medical Corps and Dental Corps of the Navy. The act of December 22, 1942 (56 Stat. 1074; 37 U. S. C. 113, note), provides that during the present war and for 6 months thereafter the superintendent and all other members of the Navy Nurse Corps shall have relative rank, pay, and allowances for corresponding relative ranks in the Army Nurse Corps.

Officers of the Women's Reserves of the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard have actual rank. The duties of members of the Navy

Nurse Corps bring them in contact with officers of these Women's Reserves. The distinction between relative and actual rank is a handicap to the members of the Navy Nurse Corps in time of war. The possession of actual rank by members of the Navy Nurse Corps would be of assistance to them during wartime in carrying on their work.

The enactment of the proposed legislation would involve no additional cost to the Government.

The following letter from the Secretary of the Navy addressed to the chairman of the Committee on Naval Affairs of the House of Representatives sets forth the views and recommendations of the Navy Department on this bill. This letter is hereby made a part of this report.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,
Washington, September 23, 1943.

Hon. CARL VINSON,
*Chairman of the Committee on Naval Affairs,
House of Representatives.*

MY DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The bill, H. R. 2976, to grant military rank to certain members of the Navy Nurse Corps, was referred to the Navy Department by your committee with request for report and recommendation thereon.

The purpose of the proposed legislation is to provide that during the war and for 6 months thereafter, or until such earlier time as the Congress by concurrent resolution or the President by proclamation may designate, the superintendent and all other members of the Navy Nurse Corps entitled under existing laws to relative rank, shall have and shall be designated by the rank which corresponds to the relative rank heretofore provided by law for such superintendent and members.

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The enactment of the proposed legislation would involve no additional cost to the Government.

The Navy Department recommends that the proposed legislation be enacted into law.

The Navy Department has been advised by the Bureau of the Budget that there would be no objection to the submission of this recommendation.

Sincerely yours,

JAMES FORRESTAL, *Acting.*